



While I would like to report that I had recently visited Museo del Fin del Mundo (Museum of the End of the World) in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, that visit is probably many years in the future, if at all. However, I did recently receive a couple of numismatic items from the museum. But first, a little bit about the Museum.

The museum is housed in the original building of the Ushuaia branch of the National Bank of Argentina. This building was constructed in 1912. It is a stone building with outside walls 60cm thick. The museum opened its doors on May 19, 1979. Its purpose is to promote the study of the history and natural sciences of Tierra del Fuego, and to promote the diffusion of this information. The medal to the left shows the front of the museum. It is uniface, has an oxidized silver finish, and is 33.5mm in diameter, or 38mm with the loop at the top.



Prior to the opening of the branch of the National Bank of Argentina in Ushuaia, the lack of banking institutions retarded the growth of Argentine Tierra del Fuego, with financial transactions going through Punta Arenas, Chile, the nearest banking center. It was partially this lack of banking facilities and circulating coinage that prompted Julio Popper to strike his 1 and 5 gram gold tokens.



Second Series replica

To honor this token coinage, and to raise funds, the museum had struck gold medals incorporating the designs of the 1 Gramo Popper token. The first series of 100 pieces weighed 3.122 grams and was 17mm in diameter, with the diameter of the depicted token 13mm - the same as the actual token! This could present obvious problems of trimming and passing the trimmed medal as the original.

A second series of 100 pieces has now been struck, with a weight of 1.65 grams, a total diameter of 21mm, and the token diameter of about 16mm. These medals are quite thin, and have a somewhat dished appearance.

Our thanks to David Guevara of Rio Grande, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina (<http://historiatdf.netcombbs.com.ar>) and the staff of Museo del Fin del Mundo (<http://tierradelfuego.org.ar/museo>).

EDITORIAL

Summer has finally arrived in the north, and along with it my summer procrastination, hence this slightly late issue.

We have some feedback from Cliff Mishler, best known for his association with Krause Publications, the publisher of Numismatic News, World Coin News, Bank Note Reporter and many other hobby publications. In 1959, Mr. Mishler issued a series of medals honoring Alaska and Hawaii statehood. His recollections make interesting reading.

This issue has a lot of information. There has been a good selection of material on eBay, both for the Prices Realized list, and for For the Record.

Because of space limitations this month, I will keep this short. You're welcome!

THE BRASS PIC



While going through our stock, we found a variety of this token that we had not noticed before. We had seen the aluminum (right) and golden aluminum (above) medals before, but the brass medal (below), with entirely different dies, showing a different P.O. Box and phone number was new to us.



It is also interesting to note that all three medals have different alignments for the Chilkoot Pass, the brass medal having it level!



PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Chisana , Anderton, B-1c	18.00
Cleary , Willis & Welch, B-5a	OB50.00NB
Juneau , Alaskan Hotel Bar, B-2b	26.50
Juneau , Imperial Billiards Encased Cent	75.00
Ketchikan , Katchikan Pharmacy, B-22a	177.50
Ketchikan , Northern Hotel, B-38b	49.99NB
Ketchikan , Slotten's, B-58a	OB9.99R
Juneau , Anita Garnick, Representative, Encased cent, horseshoe shape	38.33
Latouche , Little, B-2a	138.05
Nome , B&M Cigars, B-5b	460.00
Quinhagak , Jean, B-1c	36.00
Seward , Northern, B-8biii	OB35.00NB
Seward , The Palace, B-9c	25.00OB
Seward , Seward Bar, B-14a	31.10
Sitka , Witz, B-17a	OB40.00NB
Skagway , Elks, B-2a	OB45.00NB
Skagway , Mascot Saloon, B-17c	21.50
Skagway , Pullen House, B-22a	7.00
Snug Harbor , Pioneer Canneries B-2a	OB45.00
Talkeetna , B.N. Pool Room, B-1a	167.50
Tonsina , Nafsted, B-1a	OB60.00NB
Valdez , Copper Block Buffet, B-4a	14.94
Valdez , Copper Block Buffet, B-4b	OB40.00NB
Valdez , Copper Block Buffet, B-4cii, Nugget token, damaged	250.00OB
Yes Bay , Alaska Pacific Fisheries, B-3e	76.00
Dawson, Yukon , Hutton & Pearse	95.00OB
AYPE 1 DWT, 1909	150.76
Ranier Beer , encased cent "Alaska's Fav."	45.69

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid
RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve

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TOKEN SNAPSHOTS



Shown to the left is a nice shot of the old Pioneer Hotel. This hotel has gone through many reincarnations. Based on the autos near the hotel, and the outboard motor, our guess is that this is from the 1930s.



Tokens from this hotel are fairly common as Alaska tokens go. We can offer the following tokens at special prices, while quantities last.

5 Cents in trade, B-45aI Catalogue price \$35, our price \$25

10 Cents in trade, B-45b Catalogue price \$35, our price \$25

25 Cents in trade, B-45c Catalogue price \$25, our price \$15

Please add \$3 for postage and handling with each order.

GREATER KETCHIKAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Above is a set of 10 wooden nickels for different businesses in Ketchikan. Included are: Ben Franklin Store; Stenfjords; Tom Sawyer's; Bon Marche; Aquarium Shop; Fauteaux's Fast Photo; Ketchikan Bowling Center; Nancy's Ketchikan Jewelers; and Togs and Toys. The tenth merchant is not shown, as the common obverse, "Take Pride in Ketchikan Alaska" is shown. One wood expires on 9/30/88, placing these in the late 80s. They appear to all be black on wood. Illustrations are reduced.

FOR THE RECORD



ALASKA: Phillips 66 Alaska, one ounce silver medal with gold relief on the shield. Struck by Evergreen Mint.



ALASKA: Alpine 2000 (an oil field on the North Slope), ½ oz. and 1 oz. silver medals, 30 and 38mm respectively. Struck by Evergreen Mint. The one ounce was previously reported with gold relief.



ANCHORAGE: (Masonic) Glacier Lodge No. 10 F. & A.M., 25th Anniversary, 1961-1986. Bronze, 38mm (Jim Robb).



JUNEAU: Elongated Cent (eBay).



JUNEAU: (Masonic) Mt. Juneau Gastineau Lodge 21 Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska, Centennial 1902-2002. Brass, 38mm (Jim Robb).



KETCHIKAN: The Penny Man, \$15.00 in trade, 2003. Appears to be one ounce silver. The Bull Elk die is one of many offered by Silvertown of Indiana.



(SEWARD): Alaska Sealife Center elongated cent (eBay).



SKAGWAY/DAWSON: (Masonic) White Pass Lodge No. 1 (Skagway), Yukon Lodge No. 45 (Dawson), Centennial, 1901-2001.

FOR THE RECORD



ANCHORAGE: Loose Change Coin Company, 25¢ in trade. Black (obverse) and green (Merry Christmas side) on wood. One of many issued by Loose Change.



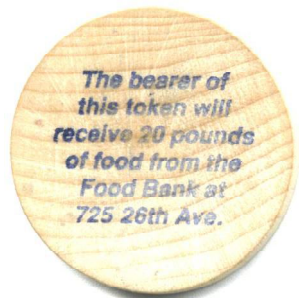
FAIRBANKS: Toy Quest, \$1 on \$5 purchase, black on wood.



ANCHORAGE: U.C. (Union Club) bifacial chip. Black or gold on red (Dethridge).



FAIRBANKS: Midnight Sun Run, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner/Subway, \$1 off any foot long sandwich. Black on wood (FDNM side), green on wood (Subway side).



FAIRBANKS: Fairbanks Community Food Bank, 20 Pounds of Food. Blue on wood.



SUTTON: Debbies Old Coins, 1996, wooden nickel. Black on wood.



VALDEZ: Valdez Market, food stamp tokens. 1 Cent is black on yellow. 10 Cent is black on pale blue. Size is 118mm by 60mm, illustration reduced (Dethridge).

ODD ITEMS ON EBAY



We found this item on eBay with the following description:

“This Alaska Traverse Party medal reads on one side DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. On the other side it reads MEDAL OF AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE ALASKA TRAVERSE PARTY 1959 FEB. 14, 1960. This medal is in great condition.”

Metal and size were not reported.

Does anyone have any information on this??



Alaska Distinguished Service Medal, oxidized bronze, 39mm.

We have seen these in catalogues of state military and other award medals. Information on what merits Distinguished Service would be appreciated.



“This tradecard is one of a series depicting the paper money of different nations and was issued by the Chocolaterie d’Aiguebelle, a French chocolate manufacturer. The top image is of an American Silver Certificate dollar bill and the bottom image is of a Klondike banker/gold exchanger. Text on the reverse lists the denominations of US money (and mentions Green Backs).”



Another Spitzbergen Non-Circulating, Non-Legal Tender Token!

“This coin marks the devastating floods in Central Europe during August of 2002. It continues the series began in 2001 marking major tragic events. **Note: the 2002 issues are the last in the series. There will not be any more such issues in the future.** Spitzbergen (Svalbard) is a Norwegian island, but Russia has had mining rights there since 1932 through its mining company “Arktikugol”. Coins for Spitzbergen have been issued intermittently since 1946. All issues are scarce to rare. This coin is rare, with a total mintage of only 2,001 pieces. It was struck at the St. Petersburg Mint (a mintmark appears on the obverse). The inscription on the reverse says “Flood - Center of Europe August 2002”. The coin is in proof condition.”

FEEDBACK: ALASKA HALF DOLLAR



Reading Kurtis Hawk's presentation on the proposed Alaska Commemorative Half that appeared in the April/May issue of ATC&PN brought back some memories that I would like to share.

For starters, I should mention that *Coin Press* was the predecessor of *Coins* magazine. First published as *You Name It?* - the first issues dated May, June and July, 1955 - by the late Frank G. Spadone, of mint error infamy, it was acquired by Chet Krause, whose first issue was dated October, 1961. The first real name for the publication was *Flying Eaglet Coin Journal* (or alternatively, *Numismatic Magazine*), starting with the issue dated August, 1955, which was its title through August, 1959, at which time two issues appeared as *Coin News*.

More particularly, however, I wanted to share with you a sidelight concerning the art for the proposed Alaska half, as published in the Dec. 12, 1959, dated issue. This art has a tie to the Alaska-Hawaii statehood medals that I issued. Coincident in time with when Robert A. Johnson was making his pitch for the Alaska half in the *Coin Press*, I was also in contact with him in pursuit of developing designs for my medal issue.

Thus, it is certainly not surprising that the Alaska half reverse design, and the Alaska side of my Alaska-Hawaii commemorative medal bear a certain similitude.

Robert A. Johnson, by the way, at the time hailed from Mt. Grove, Missouri, I having met him only through correspondence, although I did visit him in Mt. Grove a year or so later. I did not maintain contact with him subsequently. He had prepared other artwork for Spadone's publication, including the coin device likenesses employed for a feature *Descriptive Identification of A Coin* - such elements as the date, exergue, denticles, etc. were illustrated and described - which continued to be presented in *Coins* magazine and other Krause publications into the mid-60s; I suppose the art still reposes somewhere in a company file.

My interaction with Johnson also resulted in his having provided the emblem designs for both the Society of Token, Medal and Obsolete Paper Money Collectors, and TAMS, the STMOPMC, having been the official name of TAMS from its founding in November of 1960 until the SPMC was split-off as a result of actions taken at meetings hosted in Atlanta during the ANA convention in August of 1961.

To the best of my recollection and knowledge, by the way, Johnson had not created a similar art and descriptive proposal for a Hawaii Commemorative Half.

Just a bit of trivia for your amusement!

Clifford Mishler

(Editor's note: Mr. Mishler struck his Alaska/Hawaii Statehood medal in the following metals, mintages in brackets: 10K Rose Gold (25); Sterling Silver (100); bright Bronze (250); oxidized Bronze (250); bright Copper (250); oxidized Copper (250); oxidized Nickel-silver (500); and Aluminum (500). All were edge numbered with the exception of the aluminum medals.